

never celebrated the Eucharist till the Catechumens and unbelievers had departed. The Eucharist was a holy mystery kept secret from the outside world, and this accounts for the scant allusions to it in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers, and for the charges laid against the primitive Christians that they celebrated unnatural rites. The Church of England does not regard the Eucharist as a "showing forth of Christ's death" to the world at large, nor as an acted sermon for the edification of the public in general, because the non-communicants retire before the Celebration, and even the communicants themselves do not regard the celebrant's actions as a "showing forth" to *them*, because, for the most part they cover their faces and are absorbed in their devotions during the consecration. Therefore, the only remaining view is, that the "showing forth" is *before God*, by the oblation of the elements; for the Lord's Supper, ~~was~~ not ordained by Christ to be gazed upon ~~by~~ man, but to be presented as an oblation before God. In short it is a representation before God of that pleading which our great High Priest is ever carrying on in Heaven, "seeing that He ever liveth to make intercession for us." With this view agrees the Liturgy of St. James, probably the oldest extant. In the Prayer of Consecration, the Priest says, "He took the bread into His holy, undefiled, faultless and immortal hands, and looking up to heaven and *showing it to Thee His God and Father.*" John Wesley has well expressed this great truth in his well known hymn:

"With solemn faith we offer up,  
And spread before Thy glorious eyes,  
That only ground of all our hope,  
That precious bleeding sacrifice,  
Which brings Thy grace on sinners down,  
And perfects all our souls in one."

The Communion Office of the Scottish and American churches bring out this same truth in the prayer of Oblation, "We, Thy humble servants do celebrate and make new before Thy Divine Majesty, with These Thy Holy Gifts, WHICH WE